

History and Welfare of Various Nations—Plans for Remaking the World

When Poland Lives Again-- Europe's Troublous Quarter

By Willis Fletcher Johnson
The White Eagle

THE WHITE EAGLE OF POLAND. By E. F. Benson. 12mo, pp. 208. George H. Doran Company.

Bismarck's saying comes aptly to mind, that when the White Eagle of Poland came to life would begin the decline of the Black Eagle of Prussia. Shrewd observers have not failed to perceive that Germany, particularly Prussia, is more intent upon preventing the complete restoration of Polish nationality, than upon anything else in all the settlements of the war. For Germany realizes that for her the future course of empire lies eastward—if this she can reverse the otherwise inevitable westward rule—and that she must, therefore, have unfettered access to and intercourse with Russia and through her with Asia. To such relations a strong independent Poland would be an insuperable obstacle. Hence the persistent and ferocious German drive, now open, now future, always desperately inextinguishable, against the rehabilitation of Poland.

Mr. Benson, unlike too many of his own countrymen and too many more of our own, has vision to perceive that the restoration of Poland is not one of the most lucid and informing little books now before the world. He analyzes with merciless truth-seeking the "Mittel Europa" project of the Hun and demonstrates its need of the subjection of Poland to German influence, and he demonstrates most convincingly the need to Western civilization of a free, extensive and powerful Poland to be a perpetual barrier against that pernicious project. A Poland of such description was long ago declared by the Allies and was declared by President Wilson in one of his Fourteen Commandments, to be an essential condition to a just and enduring peace. Upon that theme Mr. Benson enlarges with irresistible and compelling logic. We could wish that every member of the peace congress might read, mark and inwardly digest this volume of simple truth and sane common sense.

Spanish History
A HISTORY OF SPAIN. By Charles E. Chapman. With maps and bibliography. 8vo, pp. xvi, 638. The Macmillan Company.

Dr. Chapman has judiciously based

Putnam's Publications Mar. 21, 1919

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Problems of Peace-Making-- International Relationships

The Nation and the World

Balkan Antecedents
Age-Long Emergence From Despotism to Independence

THE RISE OF NATIONALISM IN THE BALKANS. By R. W. Seton-Watson. With four maps. 8vo, pp. 208. E. P. Dutton & Co.

Holmes's wise observation that a man's education should begin with his grandparents is well adaptable to our knowledge of nations. To understand their present status we must know their past history, preferably from the very beginning. Particularly true is this in the case of lands whose interests and relations are so complex as those of the Balkan States. Many years ago there was a standing phrase in newspaperdom about "the war cloud in the Balkans." Just was made of it because of incessant iteration, but it was instinct with truth. No other part of the world has been more pregnant with beligerent possibilities than that southeastern corner of Europe, and it was quite in accordance with the trend of centuries that there should be the starting point of the great war.

This need of authentic knowledge of the antecedents of the present Balkan States is admirably supplied by Dr. Seton-Watson. His recital is brief,

Chinese Economics
FOREIGN FINANCIAL CONTROL IN CHINA. By T. W. Oberholtz. 12mo, pp. xii, 235. The Macmillan Company.

Expository rather than propagandist or controversial is the purport of this illuminating volume. The author endeavors to present an historical account of the establishment of foreign influence in the fiscal affairs of China, and to set forth the extent and the need of that control at this time. It will, no doubt, be timely for the welfare of China herself as well as for the interests of other nations, for international control of Chinese finances to be maintained, and he regards the present understanding of the powers, and especially that between America and Japan, as auspicious of success in that undertaking.

Internationalism
THE SOCIETY OF NATIONS. By T. J. Lawrence. 8vo, pp. 31, 194. Oxford University Press.

Dr. Lawrence discusses in six lectures the inter-relationships of the nations of the world, especially in connection with the great war and the issues of peace making. The book is largely historical, tracing the development of relationships between states in peace and war, but the last two lectures are devoted to the problems of the present day. The author considers that the hope of the world lies in the application and enforcement of law in the affairs of nations, and to that end he favors the formation of a league of nations, though he makes no definite prescription of its exact terms.

World Peace Propaganda
THE FORCE SUPREME. By Walter Wellman. 12mo, pp. 312. The George H. Doran Company.

"To-day opportunity knocks appealingly at the world's door; if the door be not opened she may not soon call again; if it open now a next war will never be."

The text of this book cannot be considered in a light fashion, nor even the book, though it dwells upon psychological effects and upon the questions which the thinking mind of the people are now considering in regard to reconstruction. In the eyes of the world it might be regarded as a momentous question, this "League of Nations." Presumably there is the Hague, which was formed to settle all international disputes; but in this case that institution seems to be inadequate for the present needs of the Peace Congress at Paris.

Mr. Wellman gives a concise and logical view of the various perplexing questions involved in making the world safe for true democracy, a subject that is hardly understood by the majority of the people, especially by Americans. After reviewing all the principles and solutions of these questions, as propounded by the author, one wonders whether it is done through a working out of some pet ideal; whether it is done through the spirit of pure Americanism, the spirit of democracy as given to us by our forefathers who founded this nation; or whether it is done through a simple socialism. In his ideas he is broad and presumably earnest in his ideal of the solution of the world's problems, a world peace that shall last and not be a mere dream. But what does he offer but socialism? And socialism is not going to settle any national or international disputes; instead it will only keep the

The Year That Is Past
THE AMERICAN YEAR BOOK. 1918. Edited by Francis G. Wickham. 8vo, pp. xiv, 529. D. Appleton & Co.

Year books, annuals, almanacs et cetera vary in style and scope. Each has its merits and each appeals to the taste and meets the needs of a certain constituency. Probably no one of them is entirely universal in its fitness. We should doubt, however, if any other comes nearer to universal acceptability than this one, which the Appletons have been publishing from year to year, and which Mr. Wickham has been editing with no other change from year to year than to make it more and more complete. It strikes the happy medium between manuals which are entirely narrative and those which are entirely statistical, and it does this by giving abundantly both narrative and statistics. An American year book in both name and fact, it recognizes the worldwide interests of America by including within its scope all the lands of the world. Also it covers every conceivable department and phase of human interest—political, economic, scientific, literary, sociological, religious, educational. It is a cyclopedia within the compass of a handbook, prepared by such an array of expert authorities as it would be difficult to find elsewhere marshaled in such an undertaking. To all who wish a comprehensive, authoritative and most perspicuously arranged history of the year that is just past this work is indispensable.

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Problems of Peace-Making-- International Relationships

The Nation and the World

Senator Sutherland on the External Powers of Government

CONSTITUTIONAL POWER AND WORLD AFFAIRS. By George Sutherland. 12mo, pp. vii, 232. George H. Doran Company.

Ex-Senator Sutherland's recent lectures at Columbia University attracted much attention, both from the students at that institution and from the general public, which they richly deserved as an exposition of the extent and limitations of the powers of the United States government in its relations with other countries. They had the important advantage of being the work of both a scholar and a statesman, of a man gifted with the love of books and with the experience of a practical participant in governmental affairs. We shall not undertake to say which capacity was dominant, or indeed whether either was more conspicuous than the other. There was of course no incompatibility between them, and their felicitous union was productive of an exceptional degree of authority and convincing force.

We must heartily welcome this admirable publication of the full texts of those lectures, as a most timely offering to those American citizens who in the present crisis of national and international affairs wish to form their judgment and shape their action on the most sane and substantial ground. The reader will find in some most suggestive observations upon the function of the Senate to give the President advice not only in the making but also in the negotiation of treaties, and of the special desirability of the President's seeking such advice in the making of the treaties necessary for settling the issues of the present war; as well as some pertinent and by no means favorable comments upon the pending scheme for a league of nations. A careful perusal of the volume will conduce to clear vision and sane thinking upon some of the most momentous problems in our nation's history.

Remaking the World
According to the Designs of Mr. Bertrand Russell

PROPOSED ROADS TO FREEDOM. By Bertrand Russell. 12mo, pp. xviii, 218. Henry Holt & Co.

A pathetic and engaging figure is Mr. Bertrand Russell in his new book. It is a beautiful mind that he brings to his task of examining the three roads to freedom offered the world by the radicals of the last century—Socialism, Anarchism, Syndicalism. A philosopher of mathematics, Mr. Russell, in the ultimate essence of his mind, little recollection goes back to his best of essays on his pet subject, wherein he explains what the mystery of mysteries, pure mathematics, is. "Mathematics may be defined as the subject in which we never know what we are talking about nor whether what we are saying is true."

Henry B. Beston (Sheahan)
("Full Speed Ahead"; Doubleday, Page & Co.)

the employer, and all who work receive wages from it, involves dangers of tyranny and interference with progress which would make it, if possible, even worse than the present regime. On the other hand Anarchism, which avoids the dangers of State Socialism, has dangers and difficulties of its own, which make it probable that, within any reasonable period of time, it could not last long even if it were established. Nevertheless, it remains an ideal to which we should wish to approach as nearly as possible, and which, in some distant future, may be reached completely.

So Mr. Russell falls back upon that compromise of compromises, the fashionable resting place for the moment of dictatorial reform thought of "The New Republic" school, and socialism—but "learning more, perhaps, of anarchism than the official guildman would wholly approve." Specifically, Mr. Russell speaks for the anarchistic conception of a "vague" social order, designed to take care of the artist and writers and incidentally giving substance to all for the asking, without work. In this system the state would be reduced to a sort of superstructure above powerful, self-governing groups—a return to a condition of group contest and struggle most resembling those last feudal days when order was provided by emerging and warring vassals.

Nibbling at Socialism
THE GREAT CHANGE. By Charles W. Wood. 12mo, pp. 214. Bond & Liveright.

There can be no doubt that the great war will lead, and indeed has already led, to some important changes in the economic and social constitution of the United States. Whether it or any of the current movements of the day will lead us as far as some passages in the book suggest, we seriously he doubt. We must believe that the better sense of the American nation will render impossible some of the vagaries which Mr. Wood touches as the suggestions of people with whom we had professional interviews. Not only America ready, for example, to ignore the matter of legitimacy or illegitimacy of birth, or to provide a state endowment for every child.

Those who are interested in social affairs in the vagaries of radicalism, will find this volume interesting, and those who most strongly dissent from it, a somewhat startling, and perhaps very useful revelation of the over to which the socialist propaganda in this country has gone.

Pacifist Internationalism
DEMOCRACY AND WORLD RELATIONS. By David Starr Jordan. 12mo, pp. vii, 185. The Macmillan Company.

Dr. Jordan attained such prominence as a pacifist during the war that it is not surprising to find him advocating as a settlement of the war arrangements which would abrogate national sovereignty. It may be true that, as he says, "no world-order can recognize the dynamic claim of absolute sovereignty," though even there he indulges upon the principle of complete self-determination. Suppose that some nation deliberately elects to maintain the principle of the divine right of kings: Is the world-order to deny it that right? But that is a very different thing from recognizing or not recognizing the democratic claim of the absolute sovereignty of the people.

Visions After the Fact
THE VISION FOR WHICH WE FOUGHT. By A. S. King. 12mo, pp. 197. The Macmillan Company.

The Vision is a splendid one, no doubt, but we cannot help wondering whether it was really cherished by any considerable number of persons when we entered the war or even while we were fighting the war. Certainly if we were, the fact was concealed with excellent skill. The general impression was that we were fighting to defeat the Huns, to liberate the lands which they were oppressing, to make ourselves safe against their savage assaults and to make the world safe for democracy. Since those ends have been partially—not entirely—gained it is easy to evolve from our inner consciousness fantastic tales of the future, some of which are highly desirable, but it is scarcely judicious to regard these latter as the things for which we were fighting; and it would be decidedly injudicious to give our children to them to the neglect and perhaps the sacrifice of the things which really were the cause and the object of the war. The latest volume of "The Citizens' Library" is a most illuminating and inspiring book, even to the many who will not agree with all its conclusions, but its title is not, as we have suggested, altogether accurate. The Vision is not that for which we fought, but rather the which has arisen in some minds because we fought.

"The Lion of the North"
"A Name at Which the World Grew Pale"

CHARLES THE TWELFTH, KING OF SWEDEN. By John A. Gade. Illustrated. The Houghton Mifflin Company.

Some day, no doubt, philosophic-historians will address themselves to the fascinating task of measuring the values of national follies. They will tell us, for instance, how much France of to-day owes for her greatness to the periods of Louis XIV. and Napoleon, and what Germany of the future owes there should happen to be any Germany in the future—benefits from the world-record madness of Hohenzollern and Prussian Junkerdom of the twentieth century.

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